



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

AUG 8 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARMED FORCES
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD

SUBJECT: Medical Screening for Accession Programs

I request that the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) review several longstanding practices utilized in the process of assessing accession candidates for entrance into the United States Armed Forces. Specifically, the AFEB should evaluate the following:

- (1) If any evidence-based literature supports utilization of the electrocardiogram (ECG) as a predictor of cardiovascular problems among asymptomatic individuals between the age of 17 to 35 with a negative cardiac history;
- (2) If any evidence-based literature supports screening asymptomatic individuals with no history of anemia for hemoglobin has any utility;
- (3) The need for examination of Service academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship applicants by dental professionals using panoramic x-rays. Currently, physicians accomplish such determinations without panoramic for many officer and all enlisted applicants; and
- (4) Extending the validity period of the initial qualification physical exam from two years to five years with an interim medical "inspection".

As part of the deliberation process, the AFEB should receive briefings from the DoD Medical Examination Review Board, the Military Entrance Processing Command, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, and the Accession Medical Standards Analysis & Research Activity. My point of contact is Timothy Corcoran, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, Medical Corps, (703) 68 1- 1703, fax (703) 68 1-3655, or email Timothy.Corcoran@ha.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Jarrett Clinton".

J. Jarrett Clinton, MD, MPH
Acting Assistant Secretary